

Notice of Allowability**Application No.**

09/830,074

Examiner

Venkataraman Balasubramanian

Applicant(s)

COUFAL, GERHARD

Art Unit

1624

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 4/14/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 15-26.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Applicants' response filed on 2/35/2004, under 37 CFR 1.116 in reply to the final rejection has been considered and entered. Declarations of Peter Weiss and Birgit Bogner are also made of record.

Claims 15-26 are pending.

REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Applicants have asserted with two declarations mentioned above that the instant process involves treating molten melamine with ammonia above the melting point of melamine and then followed by with water or, aqueous ammonia, which is clearly distinct from the teaching of Canzi et al., and CN 1171102. Applicants also have pointed out that the two-step process of Kokubo et al. teaches use of liquid ammonia or cool ammonia to obtain solid melamine in the first step then treatment of the solid with aqueous ammonia which is not the same as instant process. More particularly, in the instant process the treatment with ammonia is above the melting point of melamine and then the liquid (molten) melamine is treated with water or aqueous ammonia. Hence in view of applicants' above assertions, prior art 102/103 rejections of claims 15-26 made in the previous office action, is deemed as obviated.

The process for purifying melamine derived from urea in a high pressure process by cooling the molten melamine to a temperature about 1 to 50° C above the melting point of melamine with ammonia and then quenching with water or aqueous ammonia and/or melamine containing solution or suspension and then isolation of solid melamine

as embraced in the instant invention was not found to be anticipated or rendered obvious by the prior art of record. Additional search in the related art area also did not yield any prior art disclosing the said process for melamine using specific step and conditions embraced in the instant claims. Therefore, the examiner noted that the claims 15-26 would be in condition for allowance.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication from the examiner should be addressed to Venkataraman Balasubramanian (Bala) whose telephone number is (571) 272-0662. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday from 8.00 AM to 6.00 PM. The Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) of the art unit 1624 is Mukund Shah whose telephone number is (571) 272-0674. If Applicants are unable to reach Mukund Shah within 24-hour period, they may contact James O. Wilson, Acting-SPE of art unit 1624 at 571-272-0661.

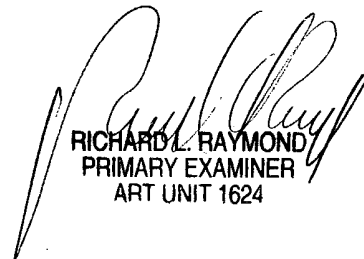
The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned (703) 872-9306. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (571) 272-1600.

Application/Control Number: 09/830,074
Art Unit: 1624

Page 4

V/B
V. Balasubramanian

5/6/2004



RICHARD L. RAYMOND
PRIMARY EXAMINER
ART UNIT 1624